

**1738 Swann Street,
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28303**

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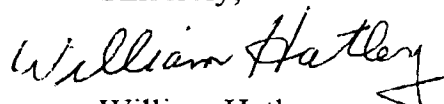
Attorney General John Ashcroft
U S Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

There has been a recent settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. I want to give my support to this agreement and ask that you do also. The whole case, in my opinion, was a boondoggle. The lawsuit was entirely political, more a result of the collaboration of Microsoft's rivals than any unethical business practices. I find it interesting that we complain about competition from abroad, urge innovation, yet in other countries, the government helps companies. In our country, companies, if they become too successful, are hauled into court, completely at the mercy of their competitors and the government's definition of success. This is a shame. But the two parties have reached an agreement and I urge you to give your approval since they, obviously, want this to end.

Moreover, Microsoft has acquiesced to a great number of demands from the Department of Justice. Microsoft has agreed to grant computer makers broad new license to cast Windows as to promote non-Microsoft software programs; Microsoft has agreed to new relations with software developers; Microsoft has agreed to internal interface disclosure. Enough is enough.

Sincerely,


William Hatley